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Two Wills of the Seventeenth Century.

WILL OF RICHARD KEMP, 1656.

The following is an exact copy of the will of Richard Kemp, Secretary of State of Virginia, recently copied from the original record at Somerset House, London. He, it is almost certain, was a son of Robert Kemp, Esq., of Gissing, in Norfolk, England; came to Virginia in 1637, with the office of Secretary, which he states, in a letter printed in Sainsbury's Calendar of Colonial State Papers, Vol. I, he obtained at the instance of the Duke of Lennox and the Earl of Pembroke; held that position and also a place as member of the Council until his death, and was Acting-Governor of the Colony in 1644. His widow, Elizabeth, married (II) Sir Thomas Lunsford, Baronet, and (III) Major-General Robert Smith.

It does not appear how Richard Kemp was a nephew of Ralph Wormeley, first of that name in Virginia, who died in 1651. Robert Kemp, of Gissing, certainly did not marry a Wormeley, so it seems most probable that Richard Kemp's wife was a daughter of Christopher Wormeley (brother of Ralph Wormeley), who was Governor of Tortuga, 1632–5, and was appointed a member of the Virginia Council in 1637.

The nephew, Edmond Kemp, lived in the present Middlesex county, and was ancestor of the families of that name in Middlesex and Gloucester.

In the name of God Amen. I Richard Kempe of Rich-neck in the Collonie of Virginia Esquire being sick and weake in bodie but sound and perfect in minde and memorie (thanks be given to God) doe make and declare this my last will and Testamente in manner and forme followinge (that ts to say) first I give and bequeath my soule into the handes of Almighty god that gave it mee, And my bodie to be decently buried in my Orchard, and for all my worldly Estate I give and bequeath as followeth, I make my deare and carefull wife Elizabeth Kempe, and my poore child Elizabeth Kempe my Executryes of my whoale Estate in Virginia and of all moneys due to mee in England which will appeare by Accompte. and of all proceedes of Tob: which is shiped or shalbe shipped this yeare, such Legacies Excepted which hereafter followeth, And my will is that my unckle Ralph Wormeley dureing the minority of my Child be Executor on her

behalfe, next my will is that my said Executrices doe with all conveniency sell the Rich neck with all the Landes belongeinge to it, And that if it please god in Callinge mee before it be done that they make good a sale of three hundred acres of Land with plantation on th' other side the creeke hee puttinge in securitie according to his bargaine to pay ten thousand waight of Tob: in Cash and paying for the survey to mee or my assignes, my will is that my Executors doe graunte unto Geo. Reade fifty acres in the barren Necke where he liveth for my plantation at Rappahanocke I leave it to the discretion of my Executors and the servants alsoe Either to sell the plantation or keepe it when or how Longe they please, I desire that my Executors sell what they can Elsewhere, And that my wife and child departe this Cuntrey I desire that my parte of the house Att Towne be sould; Master Richard Bennett is to make good the sale, I give unto my unckle Ralph Wormeley tenne poundes ster: to buy him a Ringe, To my brother Mr. Edward Kempe five poundes ster. To my nephew Edmund Kempe, one new servante, this yeare, two cowes next yeare, and five hundred pounds of Tobacco to bee payed him next yeare towards his buildinge. I give to my beloved friend Richard Lee forty shillings to buy him a ringe to bee fourthwith paid, Lastly I pray god to bless this Colony, And I desire Sir William Berkeley to accepte of tenne poundes as a poore Legacie to be paid next yeare desiringe his favoure and freindshipp to my poore wife and child, and not to bee any Interruption to their departure out of the Collonie that this my will I have hereunto set my hand and seale the foureth day of January Anno D'ni one thousand six hundred fortie nine.

RICH: KEMPE.

Signed, sealed and published in presence of Richard Lee, Edmund Kempe.

This will was proved at London the sixth day of December in the yeare one thousand, six hundred fiftie six before the judges for probate of wills and graunting Administrations Lawfully Authorized by the oath of Elizabeth Lunsford alias Kempe the Relict and one of the Executrices named in the said will To whome was Committed Administration of all and singular the goodes Chattells and Debtes of the said deceased, Elizabeth

Kempe the daughter and Ralfe Wormley the other Executors beinge both of them deceased as is alleadged, shee the said Dame Elizabeth beinge first sworne truly to Administer the same.

WILL OF REV. JOHN LAWRENCE.

[Rev. John Lawrence was a clergyman, of English birth, who was associated with the early history of Presbyterianism in America.]

Att virginia In ye County of Lower norfolke In Little Creek att ye house of nich^{o} huggings I: John Lauarranse master of arte being very Seick and Weake of boddy: but blesed bee god of Sound and p'fect memory, doe Revock all maner of former wills by mee made; and doe Declare this onely Instrum^{t} of Writing to be my Last will and testam^{t} in maner and forme as followeth Imp^{r} I give and bequeath my Soule to god that gave It, and my Bode to ye Earth from whence It Came to be Decently & Cristianly burried, and as for my Worley goods; give and bequeath them as followeth Secondley I doe Declare that I am the Eldest Lawfull Sone of Jno. & Dorrity Larrance and was borne babtised att ye Wormlyberry house in ye p'ish of Wormly in harford Shere and I am now posest of Six tenaments Seitueate In ye p'ish of S: giles in ye fieles, in Church Lane wch I was Resolved to give to Cary Larrance the Eldest Sone of Andrew Larrance, my Brother Son but now my Reselution is altered, and Resolving wth my Selfe I thought fit to Come to virg^{a} to a Sister wch I had Leving there, Expecting to find Comfort by her, but not finding that Entertaym^{t} wch I did Expect, I did not tarry long wth her, but went and Lived In maryland three yeares, where I preched the gospell to ye Comfort of many thousands, but Could not bee Endured by ye Romand Catholicks, and afterwards I was p'Swaded to gone for Coralina wch p'Swattons I did Imbrase: and to that Effect I tooke a boate att potomack River on purpose to transport my Selfe to Carolina and Comeing to point Comfort I did meet wth a good frend a bord a Shipe bound for that Same place, where I was bound; a bord of wch Ship I did put my Selfe wth my Chest and Cloathes; but I was soe weake and feble being taken wth ye griping of ye goots being occaisconed by ye longe pashage of two weekes abord ye the afore Sd boate being hardly In a Condition to Swim and

meeting wth this good freind by name Mrs. mary benson Wid^{o} who being of a tender hart had Compassion on mee the Ship being full of pashengers Shee did lay mee pon her one bed and In her one Cabin, and Did attend upon mee boath night and Day for five moneths to ye Admiratio of all ye people that heard or knew of it I being aged three Score & fifeten yeares, and by gods good providence It was my good fortune to mete wth this tender & Compassionated herted gen^{t} Woman, after my long pashage in ye Sd boate and my Said Sicknese occaisioned thereby and being bound and obblidged in all Equity and Reason to Recompence her soe for as possibley I am able I doe therefore alter my former Resulution & Doe leave the afor sd Six tenam^{ts} to ye Sd Mrs. mary benson wid^{o} her heyers Exeeketors Adminis^{r} and assignes, and I doe hereby ordaine and apoint them my full & Sole Exequtrix of this my last will and testam^{t} Revocking hereby all former deeds of gifts Joynters and all other writs wills & testam^{ts} made by mee, and I doe hereby Lease to her and to her aforsaid all my Jewelly, Rings, gould Silver and all whatsoev^{r} I have, and also I apoint & ordaine ye afore Sd mrs. mary benson wid^{o} and her afor Saide to uplift and Receave Seaven yeares Rent of ye Sd Six tenam^{ts} att 36 l Sterling p yeare allowing 50 l Sterling wch I Rec'd by me, and it is to be deducted out of ye afore Sd 7 years Rent, and I doe Leave the Samyne to her heyers Exeexeters Adming^{rs} and Assignes for Ever for Ever & for Ever and finally this I ordaine to be my testam^{t} and Latter will Invoiable and for ye Confirming thereof I have hereunto affixed my hand and Seale this 26th Day of Sept. And^{o} Dom^{o} *1684*.

JOHN LARANSE & SEALE.

Signed Sealed & Delivered In ye p^{r}sents of us

Jacob Johnson,*
Jno. Coe,
Geo. Smart.

Proved County Court of Lower norfolke the 15th octob *1684* by ye oaths of all ye Evidence.

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*A well known Presbyterian.